

MEDIA RELEASE

14 April 2020

STAYING AT HOME NOT POSSIBLE FOR THOUSANDS OF YOUNG TERRITORIANS

Government guidelines tell us we must stay home to flatten the curve. The Coronavirus pandemic has made home a vital sanctuary.

Youth Homelessness Matters Day, Wednesday 15 April, is the national day of action highlighting the plight of young people who are homeless and those at risk of homelessness. A home and supportive connections are necessary for safety, health and stability.

More than 3,500 young Territorians are homeless on any given night (ABS 2016). The Northern Territory has one of the highest rates of youth homelessness in Australia. In most cases, young people don't have a home because of family conflict or violence.

Jemma Wood, Anglicare NT Operations Manager – Youth Support & Development, knows how much a safe place to sleep means to young people.

"Everyone needs a home to retreat to and build their life from. So many young people are focused on how to survive day to day. We know that with safe and stable accommodation young people thrive. They can rest, build relationships, develop independent living skills and pursue study or a job," said Ms Wood.

"Young people are very worried about COVID-19. Some young people are sleeping rough but most are couch surfing and don't know where they will be from one night to the next, let alone for the next six months."

Anglicare NT is calling on the NT Government, the community and business sector to work together to support young people experiencing homelessness.

"We know it is important to invest in resilient communities. We are all stronger, when we stick together and support our most vulnerable. Young people experiencing homelessness need our help, especially now. They need access to a place they can call home along with well-resourced support services to help them get on their feet," said Dave Pugh, CEO Anglicare NT.

We had to cancel our annual Couch Surfing race in Darwin this year due to the Coronavirus, but our [social media campaign](#) continues with the support of many organisations. Check out some footage from last year's event on [YouTube](#).

FOR COMMENTS OR INTERVIEWS

To arrange an interview with Dave Pugh, Anglicare NT CEO contact the media team.

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